



SOUTH ASIA: Locally heavy rain (50-100 mm or more) covered rice areas of northern and eastern India and Bangladesh, causing additional flooding in the Ganges and Brahmaputra River systems. The rain increased irrigation reserves in the northern Indian cotton areas of Punjab and Haryana, but monsoon shower activity rapidly tapered off over Pakistan's main growing areas. Moderate showers (10-50 mm or more) continued over most of central and southern India, further improving cotton and oilseed prospects, but dry pockets lingered over coarse grain and sugarcane areas in Maharashtra. Near-normal temperatures across the region favored development of coarse grains, oilseeds, and cotton. The monsoon typically begins its seasonal withdrawal from Pakistan and northwestern India in early September, with the rainy season in central India usually lasting into October.